

**Because God Said So!**  
*Sermon for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011



**I. Introduction**

A. "Because I Said So!"

- i) Takes everything out of our hands.
  - (1) There is no more arguing, no more grumbling, just accepting what you feel is not \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii) Isn't it amazing how when things don't go according to OUR plan, we discern that those who provide for us don't \_\_\_\_\_ about us.

**II. Israel's Travels.**

A. "Is the \_\_\_\_\_ among us or not?"

- i) Things were not going the Israelites way, or so it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) They had been delivered out of slavery in Egypt, but when apparently trapped, they \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?"*

- **Exodus 14:11**

- (a) And God saved them by leading them through the Red Sea and they responded \_\_\_\_\_ with songs of praise.

*"The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God and I will praise Him!" - Exodus 15:2*

- (2) Moses led the Israelites away from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Shur, where the only water they found was the bitter water of Marah and they \_\_\_\_\_.

*"And the people grumbled against Moses saying, 'What shall we drink?'" - Exodus 15:24*

- (a) God answered by \_\_\_\_\_ those waters and from there Moses led them to Elim  
*"where there were twelve springs of water" (Exodus 15:27).*

- (3) They journeyed on to the Wilderness of Sin, but when they arrived there was no food, and they \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

- **Exodus 16:3**

- (a) So God provided them manna and quail which they would eat for the next forty years.

- (4) Today in our Old Testament lesson Israel arrived at Rephidim and find that there is no water. And so, guess what? Yes, as surprising as it may be, Israel \_\_\_\_\_.

*"[The people of Israel] quarreled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink... Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?'" (Vss. 2-3).*

B. Are you noticing a \_\_\_\_\_ here?

- i) Even though God had continually shown the people of Israel that He was a God who would deliver them, they continued to accuse God of abandoning them when things got \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii) He promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, but when things got tough they were willing to resign themselves to a life of \_\_\_\_\_.
- i) Israel suffered because of sin and their grumbling, yet was provided with deliverance, protection, food and water because, " \_\_\_\_\_ said so!"

### III. The Woman at the Well

- A. "Is the \_\_\_\_\_ among us or not?"
- i) The Samaritan woman at the well didn't verbally express this thought, but we can \_\_\_\_\_ it in her question to Jesus, "*Are you greater than our Father Jacob?*" (vs. 12)
    - (1) Who were the Samaritans?
      - (a) The Samaritans Jewish heritage had been adulterated through intermarriage, and their observance of Judaism was regarded as \_\_\_\_\_.
      - (b) Their Bible contained only the five books of Moses (Pentateuch) and looked forward to a Messiah who "*will explain everything*" (vs. 25).
        - (i) Because of their adherence to the Pentateuch only, the Samaritans missed out on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah spoken by the great prophets.
    - (2) For this reason, God's will and plan required this route be taken for the sake of the Samaritans.
      - (a) To \_\_\_\_\_ a people that were once part of God's chosen, but through their deprivation of prophecy continued to be led astray.
- B. The woman chosen for this encounter is an interesting choice.
- i) She was obviously a societal \_\_\_\_\_: "*You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband*" (vss. 17-18).
    - (1) Not only had the woman sinned, but she had \_\_\_\_\_ in to it.
    - (2) Like the people who wandered in the Wilderness, it was easier to admit defeat than to press on.
      - (a) Jesus gave her what God had given the Israelites at Rephidim. But the water He gave her would not run out.
      - (b) This water gave her \_\_\_\_\_, and according to our Epistle lesson for today, "*Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us*" (Romans 5:5).

### IV. Manna from Heaven, Water from the Rock – The God of Temporal and Eternal Sustenance

- A. "Is the \_\_\_\_\_ among us or not?"
- i) Like the Israelites, we \_\_\_\_\_ when things are not going the way we think they should.
  - ii) Like the woman at the well, some of us have given in to the sin in our lives and \_\_\_\_\_ the hope that Christ has given us.
- B. We ask the question, "*Is the Lord among us or not?*" What is God's \_\_\_\_\_?
- (1) In the desert, God told Moses to strike a rock and water would come out.
  - (2) At the Samaritan well, God sent the Messiah to give the woman the water of life.
  - (3) To us, God has already provided our \_\_\_\_\_ sustenance: "*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (Romans 5: 1-2).
  - (4) To us, God provides \_\_\_\_\_ as well: "*More than that we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us*" (Romans 5: 3-5).
- C. So how will we spend our time in the desert or at the well?
- i) Will we, like the Israelites, \_\_\_\_\_? Will we, like the woman at the well, be \_\_\_\_\_ in our sin and question Jesus over his ability to do something about it: "*Are you greater than our father Jacob?*"
  - ii) Or will we "*\_\_\_\_\_ in our suffering?*" Will we ask, "*Give me this water?*"
  - iii) God has THE answer: "*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear... for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you*" (Deuteronomy 31:6).